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shall make application directly to the Bureau of the Public Debt for approval by the Commissioner of the Bureau of the Public Debt. An application-agreement sent directly to the Bureau of the Public Debt shall be supplemented by such other information as the Bureau of the Public Debt may request.

(1) The terms of each application agreement shall include the provisions prescribed by section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" (3 CFR, subchapter B, 42 U.S.C. 2000e note).

(2) The provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), and regulations issued pursuant thereto (31 CFR part 1, subpart C).

(b) *Certificate of qualification.* Upon approval of an application-agreement, the designated Federal Reserve Bank or the Bureau of the Public Debt will issue a certificate of qualification to the organization. Until the receipt of such a certificate, an organization shall not perform any act as an issuing agent, or advertise in any manner that it is authorized to so act or that it has applied for qualification as an issuing agent. After receipt of a certificate of qualification, an organization may perform the functions of an issuing agent. Under the terms of the application-agreement, the proceeds of the sale of bonds are at all times the property of the United States for which the organization shall be fully accountable.

(c) *Adverse action or change in qualification.* An organization will be notified by the designated Federal Reserve Bank or the Bureau of the Public Debt if its application-agreement to act as issuing agent is not approved, or if, after issuance, its certificate of qualification is terminated.

[54 FR 40830, Oct. 3, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 10535, 10536, Mar. 4, 1994; 63 FR 64550, Nov. 20, 1998]

§ 317.4 Issuing agents currently qualified.

Each organization, qualified as an issuing agent under a trust agreement currently in effect, is authorized to continue to act in that capacity without requalification. By so acting, it shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the previously executed application-agreement and these regula-

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tions in the same manner and to the same extent as though it had requalified hereunder.

§ 317.5 Termination of qualification.

(a) *By the United States.* The Secretary of the Treasury or a delegate may terminate the qualification of an issuing agent at any time, upon due notice to the agent. If this action is taken, the agent will be required to make a final accounting for the balance of savings bond stock for which it is charged, based on the records of the designated Federal Reserve Bank. The agent must surrender all unissued bonds and remit the issue price of any remaining bonds included in its accountability.

(b) *At request of issuing agent.* A designated Federal Reserve Bank will terminate the qualification of an issuing agent upon its request, provided the agent is in full compliance with the terms of its agreement and the applicable regulations and instructions, and renders a final accounting.

[54 FR 40830, Oct. 3, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 10536, Mar. 4, 1994]

§ 317.6 Issuance of bonds.

(a) *General.* Each issuing agent shall comply with all regulations and instructions issued by the Department of the Treasury directly, or through the designated Federal Reserve Bank, concerning the sale, inscription, dating, and validation of bonds; the acceptance, processing, and transmittal of over-the-counter purchase orders; the remittance of sales proceeds; and the disposition of paper and electronic registration records. No issuing agent shall have authority to sell bonds other than as provided in the offering circular.

(b) *Fees.* Each issuing agent, other than a Federal agency, will be paid fees. Only issuing agents are eligible to collect fees. With prior approval, agents that are authorized to inscribe bonds and receive fee payments will also be paid a bonus for presorting savings bond mailings. Schedules reflecting the amount of the fees and presort bonuses, and the basis on which they are computed and paid, will be published separately in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

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(c) *No charge to customers.* Any issuing agent that accepts fees from the Department of the Treasury for selling savings bonds, and/or accepting over-the-counter purchase orders, shall not make any charge to customers for the same service.

[54 FR 40830, Oct. 3, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 39960, Oct. 1, 1990; 58 FR 63529, Dec. 2, 1993; 59 FR 10536, Mar. 4, 1994; 63 FR 64550, Nov. 20, 1998]

§317.7 Obtaining and accounting for bond stock.

An issuing agent that is authorized to inscribe bonds sold over-the-counter or through payroll savings plans may obtain bond stock from the designated Federal Reserve Bank. The bond stock is, at all times, the property of the United States. The organization shall be fully accountable for the bond stock consigned to it in accordance with all regulations and instructions issued by the Department of the Treasury.

[54 FR 40830, Oct. 3, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 10536, Mar. 4, 1994]

§317.8 Remittance of sales proceeds and registration records.

An issuing agent shall account for and remit bond sales proceeds and registration records promptly in accordance with regulations and instructions issued by the Department of the Treasury, either directly or through the designated Federal Reserve Banks. Failure to comply with these instructions may subject an agent to penalties, including termination of its qualification as an issuing agent.

APPENDIX TO §317.8—REMITTANCE OF SALES PROCEEDS AND REGISTRATION RECORDS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY CIRCULAR, PUBLIC DEBT SERIES NO. 4-67, THIRD REVISION (31 CFR PART 317), FISCAL SERVICE, BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

Subpart A—General Information

1. *Purpose.* This appendix is issued for the guidance of organizations qualified as issuing agents of Series EE and I United States Savings Bonds under the provisions of Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 4-67, current revision. Its purpose is to supplement the provisions of §317.8 of the Circular relating to the remittance of savings bond sales proceeds and registration records, including the interest charge to be collected for late remittances.

2. *Definition of terms.* As used in this appendix:

(a) *Issue Date* is the date as of which a bond begins to earn interest. It is the date entered by the issuing agent in the upper right corner of the bond.

(b) *Validation Date* is the date as of which a bond is actually inscribed for issue. It is entered by the issuing agent immediately below the "Issue Date" in the area marked "Issuing Agent's Dating Stamp".

(c) *Over-the-counter sale* means any sale of savings bonds other than payroll sales.

(d) *Payroll sale* includes all issues of savings bonds paid for with deductions withheld from the pay of employees of organizations which maintain (i) payroll savings plans or (ii) thrift, savings, vacation, or similar plans.

(e) *Issuing agent*, as provided in §317.1(c) of the Circular, refers to an organization that has been qualified by a designated Federal Reserve Bank or the Commissioner of the Bureau of the Public Debt to sell savings bonds.

(f) *Immediately available funds* are remittances of funds which are available for the use by the Department of the Treasury immediately upon receipt by the Department or its fiscal agents, and include, but are not limited to:

(1) A change to the remitter's (or a correspondent depository institution's) reserve account with a Federal Reserve Bank;

(2) A Federal funds check;

(3) A United States Government check; or

(4) A postal money order.

(g) *Financial institutions* refers to banks, trust companies, credit unions, and savings institutions chartered by or incorporated under the laws of the United States, or those of any State or Territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(h) *Nonfinancial institutions* refers to any issuing agent not described under paragraph (g) of this appendix.

3. *Determination of issue date.* The obligation of the United States to pay interest on a savings bond is determined by its issue date. That date is the first day of the month in which a qualified issuing agent receives or accumulates the full purchase price of the bond. In the case of a bond purchased under a payroll savings plan operated by an organization which is not an issuing agent, the issue date should be fixed as of the month in which the organization accumulates the full purchase price of the bond. Such funds must, however, be remitted to the issuing agent in time to permit such dating.

4. *Forms of remittance.* Issuing agents shall remit sales proceeds in timely fashion as follows:

(a) Issuing agents which are financial institutions must remit in immediately available funds.